

HOUSE BILL NO. 697

INTRODUCED BY S. SALES

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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT SUBSTITUTING A GENERAL MALICIOUS INTIMIDATION OR HARASSMENT CRIME FOR THE CRIME OF MALICIOUS INTIMIDATION OR HARASSMENT BECAUSE OF A PERSON'S RACE, CREED, RELIGION, COLOR, NATIONAL ORIGIN, OR INVOLVEMENT IN CIVIL OR HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVITIES; AMENDING SECTION 45-5-221, MCA; AND REPEALING SECTION 45-5-222, MCA."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. Section 45-5-221, MCA, is amended to read:

"45-5-221. Malicious intimidation or harassment relating to civil or human rights -- penalty. (1)

A person commits the offense of malicious intimidation or harassment when, ~~because of another person's race, creed, religion, color, national origin, or involvement in civil rights or human rights activities, he~~ the person purposely or knowingly, with the intent to terrify, intimidate, threaten, or harass, ~~annoy, or offend:~~

- (a) causes bodily injury to another;
- (b) causes reasonable apprehension of bodily injury in another; or
- (c) damages, destroys, or defaces any property of another or any public property.

~~(2) For purposes of this section, "deface" includes but is not limited to cross burning or the placing of any word or symbol commonly associated with racial, religious, or ethnic identity or activities on the property of another person without his or her permission.~~

~~(3)~~(2) A person convicted of the offense of malicious intimidation or harassment shall be imprisoned in the state prison for a term not to exceed 5 years or be fined an amount not to exceed \$5,000, or both."

NEW SECTION. Section 2. Repealer. Section 45-5-222, MCA, is repealed.

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